

(Name Omitted)

“The Social Network”
Reflection Paper Questions

What are your experiences of Facebook? What do you see as its benefits and drawbacks?

I’ve had my Facebook since sophomore year and it has definitely had an impact on my life, in good and bad ways. Facebook makes it easy to find people, probably easier than any other social-networking site; therefore, I can contact old friends fairly easy. It is also a great way to find out information. For instance, if I don’t know what time school starts during CAHSEE schedule, I can post a status on Facebook and people will answer my question. It is also nice to have invitations online where you can see who will be attending, instead of receiving a paper invitation that is easy to lose and having no idea who is going. Facebook is an outstanding social network and deserves its praise. However, there are a lot of drawbacks to it. Since I’ve signed up for Facebook, my grades have been affected. It is sickening how addicting it is. I’m positive that many teenagers cannot get on the computer for homework and stay off of Facebook. In fact, I keep checking mine as I write this. It also has become such a distraction that my lack of focus has sky-rocketed. People have even lost social skills, where they cannot even hold a conversation with someone in person. Facebook has become so invasive nowadays. People are even losing their jobs because they are caught posting pictures on Facebook of them going out when they called in sick at work. Colleges and scholarship programs even check their applicants’ Facebook pages. Basically, privacy has reached an all-time low in society ever since Facebook was invented.

'As if every thought that tumbles through your head was so clever it would be a crime for it not to be shared,' Mark's ex Erica snaps at Mark. Why are people drawn to the idea of broadcasting their personal lives on the internet?

I feel that people really do care about what others think. Why else would someone post a status and keep checking their notifications to see if someone commented on it or liked it? And why is it that people feel the urge to “check-in” and let everybody know where they are? It’s for the attention. People want to show off their lives and see what their friends think. Everybody wants to be liked.

'The internet's not written in pencil, Mark. It's written in ink,' states Erica, seething at the comments he blogged about her. Why is the typed word so powerful? Why is it tempting to misuse this power online? What positive things can social-networking sites achieve when used to their full potential?

My family always says, “Once it’s on the internet, it’s there forever.” This is true. Anybody can save a picture that someone else posts. There are even people who save pictures of people and post them on Google images. And we all know about the pictures of celebrities that are leaked and go viral. The typed word is powerful because even though it may not be so credible, many

people believe it. It's tempting to misuse the power online because it is easy to do so. There have been many cases where people have committed suicide for being cyber bullied, which is one of the powers online. When someone is behind a screen rather than in front of a face, they become a completely different person. Social-networking sites are perfect for long-distance friendships. People can easily search their old friends or ones that have moved away and remain in contact with them. I admire the fact that adults find their old friends from high school and reconnect with them. Bringing people together is probably the main idea of a social-networking site.